

WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan Implementation Update

January 8, 2015

Panel 6 Initial Closure

Access to Panel 6

a. Rollback

- Contamination Assessment— Radiological contamination assessments of the underground are ongoing with drifts E-140, W-30, and W-170 between S-2200 and S-2900 being rolled back. Radiological control personnel continue to perform surveys at the entrance of Panel 6 in preparation for Panel 6 initial closure activities.
- Fixing/Decontamination Activities—The effectiveness of fixing and decontamination methods was evaluated in the S-2520 drift of Panel 7 between Rooms 4 and 5. The initial fixative applications and water spray demonstrations indicated that these methods are effective in attenuating/fixing contamination. Preparations are underway to begin fixing and decontamination activities in Panel 7 late this week/early next week.
- Underground Entries—Preventive maintenance activities are underway on various pieces of heavy equipment in the underground. Entries this week are underway.

b. Ground Control Status

- Shaft/Hoist—Preventive maintenance and preoperational checks continue in support of placing the Waste Hoist back into full service. The accumulated water in the Waste Shaft sump has been removed. Salt buildup is now being removed in order to allow necessary clearance between guide rope weights and the sump. Salt removal is 35% complete. Once this activity is complete then final hoisting rope inspections can be performed.
- Bolting—Priorities continue to include resumption of bolting and the initial closure of Panel 6. Bolting will need to be initiated in the Panel 6 entries in preparation to support Panel 6 initial closure activities. Bolting is being prioritized based on geotechnical inspections and surveys. Bolting activities have been completed in the E-140 drift from S-700 to S-1950. Bolting is now being performed in the Air Intake Shaft drift. Cleaning and maintenance was completed for another bolter and this bolter is available for use in uncontaminated areas.

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c. Habitability

- Communication Systems—Initial inspections have been performed for the area between the Air Intake Shaft and Salt Shaft Station. Radiological rollback has allowed access to some mine phones, radio, and public address system locations in this limited area. As a result, operability tests have been performed for these underground mine phones, radio, and public address system locations. As radiological rollback continues towards Panel 6, mine phones in the Panel 6 area will be checked and, if necessary, will be repaired and have batteries replaced.
- Self-Contained Self-Rescuer— Caches will be restocked, if needed, in the drifts (e.g., W-30, S-2750) to Panel 6. Habitability activities have started near the shaft areas and are progressing towards the south end of the underground via drifts (E-140, W-30 and W-170) and will continue towards drifts (S-2750 and S-3080) that provide access to Panel 6 to support Panel 6 initial closure activities.
- Eye wash/first aid stations— Inspections in accessible areas have been completed.
- Other Activities—Maintenance on the forklift is complete. Maintenance on a bolter, scissor lift, haul truck, and underground rescue truck is in progress.

d. Drills, Training, Mockups

- The Annual Horizon-14 drill was performed on December 10, 2014.

Equipment/Ventilation/Materials

a. Electrical

- Ongoing visual checks are being performed to evaluate the extent of soot accumulation on electrical equipment and to clean, if necessary. The underground electrical cleaning is about 60% complete. Cleaning of some underground switch stations is ongoing.

b. Ventilation

- Air Flow—The underground ventilation system is currently operating in filtration mode using one 860 fan that supplies a nominal flow rate of 60,000 standard cubic feet per minute to the underground.

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c. Stage Needed Materials in Underground

- Bulkheads for the initial closure of Panel 6 are fabricated and located in the underground. No additional staging of materials is currently underway.
- A forklift was prepped with brattice cloth. The brattice cloth is meant to allow for a better decontamination of the forklift when it is no longer needed in Panel 7 and is needed to support Panel 6 closure.

Document Preparation

a. Work Planning

- Revisions to work planning documents to address Panel 6 initial closure activities are in progress.

b. Safety Basis Documents

- The safety basis document that support safety basis authorizations for Panel 6 initial closure and Panel 7, Room 7 closure have been approved.

Summary - Information Requests/Status

NMED requested a finalized copy of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Decontamination Plan.